Reviewer's report

Title: Enhanced reporting of deaths among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples using linked administrative health datasets

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Reviewer: Paul A Peters

Reviewer's report:

I think that this is a very good paper and provides a description of a useful methodology and results specific to the Australian context. However, I have a few suggestions that could be addressed.

1. From research in Canada, it was found that the Aboriginal population was less likely to be ascertained during record linkage; and, are less likely to respond to the Census itself (Wilkins et al.). Other research also suggests a potential bias to not reporting an Aboriginal identity. As such, this could potentially effect the benchmark by which reporting is compared. I don't know if this is the case as well with the Australian data given the different methods of linkage, but perhaps this is an additional limitation.

2. Calculation of SMR - I think a bit more description of the indirect standardisation method should be given, such as making clear which population was used as an index and which as a standard.

Although the paper is very technical it is quite readable.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.